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The City of Whitehorse

PRESS RELEASE

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WHITEHORSE WINS AN ENGINEERING INNOVATIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF GEOEXCHANGE POTENTIAL

The City of Whitehorse along with EBA, a local engineering firm, won an Award of Merit for their innovative work in assessing and mapping the geoexchange potential for the City.

The Consulting Engineers of British Columbia held their annual awards gala on March 8, 2008 at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Center. This year, 37 projects that are notable landmarks in BC and around the globe, were submitted in five categories: Buildings; Municipal; Transportation; Natural Resources, Energy and Industry; and Soft Engineering. The City won in the category of Natural Resources, Energy and Industry.

"Geoexchange technology has an economic payback as the operational costs can be 40 percent lower than conventional forms of heating. After capital costs are recovered, owners realize long-term savings that are insulated from rising fuel costs. As our base electricity is generated by hydro the greenhouse gas emissions from a geoexchange system are substantially lower than burning fossil fuel", says Lesley Cabott, Sustainability Project Manager for the City who was in Vancouver to receive the award along with Dr. Scott Schillereff from EBA Engineering.

"These maps were used during a Sustainability Charrette in October and are part of the design work for the Lower Porter Creek Bench subdivision and a new Public Safety building. We hope to use heat from a geoexchange system in both of these projects. This is the first of this kind of geoexchange city-wide assessment and mapping for any municipality in Canada as far as we know," said Whitehorse Mayor Buckway.

Geoexchange is the process of taking low grade heat from earth sources and transforming it using heat pump technology to heat buildings. Ground sources can be soil, rock, groundwater, surface water, ocean or waste heat. The City of Whitehorse's project looked at water, soil, rock and liquid waste (sewer heat). The maps show that large areas of the City are amenable to geoexchange technology or sewer-heat recovery.

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